

# The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



WINTER 2003  
Volume 3, Issue 4



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**Cover:** The calendar provides two opportunities in November and December to pause and reflect on the sacrifice of fellow service members both living and dead.

**Back cover:** The Wright brothers propelled the world into an era of new heights that historic day in December 1903 at Kitty Hawk. Our back cover honors their struggle, sacrifice and commitment to their dreams 100 years ago.

# Commander's Column

By Col. James A. Firth  
125th Fighter Wing Commander

When I visit various work areas on the base and talk to the dedicated men and women throughout the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, I am frequently asked questions concerning the future of the 125th such as:

***"Is the 125th Fighter Wing getting new aircraft?"***

***"Is the current Base Realignment and Closure Commission process going to impact us?"***

The period we are living in right now is one of the most dynamic periods that we will see during our lifetime. We will witness greater changes in the military during the next few years than most of us have seen during our entire careers! A number of significant factors are currently coming together in a way most of us have not experienced in our lifetime.

First, with the end of the Cold War we are witnessing the beginning of an entirely different world order faced by the U.S. A world order characterized by such important developments such as the lack of a clearly defined enemy, asymmetric threats, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and hostile non-state groups whose membership are not limited by national boundaries.

Because of this, the role of the U.S. military, and the national defense strategy has changed in ways we would have only expected to read in a Tom Clancy novel just a few years ago!

Second, a number of very significant internal changes are occurring within the U.S. military. The entire generation of modern weapons systems procured in the Reagan years is nearing the end of its useful lifespan, just at the time when the threats we face are dramatically changing.

Also, our technology, and the weapons made possible by this technology will, in many cases, dramatically change the types of weapon systems we acquire to face the new world situation. In the case of the main weapons system we operate, aircraft, new

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advanced technology will make future weapons systems such as the F/A-22, and the Joint Strike Fighter very expensive.

The U.S. will be paying the cost of replacing almost an entire generation of weapons system, at the same time our defense budget will be competing with expenses to support a rapidly aging population that is rising exponentially.

What does this mean?

It means the U.S. military will be forced to make tough



decisions to cut all unnecessary costs, in order to invest in the new weapons required in the new world we face. And, to operate the "old" ones it chooses to retain. The numbers of new aircraft we operate in the future probably will be somewhere between 40 to 50 percent less than our present force structure due to budget constraints.

Third, in the next few years, the U.S. military will also be going through two very important separate, but related processes:

***1. the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC),***

***2. and the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).***

The BRAC will give a recommendation to the President as to which bases should be closed, consolidated, or realigned to reduce

*Continued page 4...*



From page 3...

unnecessary infrastructure, capacity and cost.

The QDR is a massive process that takes place every four years.

Its job is to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire U.S. defense strategy, force structure, force modernization, infrastructure and budget plan, with a view towards directing U.S. defense programs for the next 20 years.

While we've had BRAC's and QDR's before, we've never had them at the same time.

These programs will deliver recommendations to Congress and the President in 2005. Altogether, the concurrent timing of these combined forces—the new world situation, the need for, and availability of new “transformational” weapons and capabilities, along with the parallel timing of BRAC and QDR are coming together in a simply unprecedented confluence of events.

To quote a senior leader I recently heard, the situation we face is much like “the perfect storm.” At the 125th, we are already heavily involved in the BRAC process.

The entire U.S. military is currently participating in a project to carefully measure the capacity and characteristics of our bases, in order to help the BRAC commission make wise recommendations about future bases.

Currently, a team is working to answer a large list of standardized questions to gather this data here at the 125th. At the same time, the National

Guard Bureau is working with the Guard organizations in the 54 states and territories to form a recommendation to forward to the U.S. Air Force next month (February 2004), regarding how to best adopt these changes in the Air National Guard. The Air Force will then submit its recommendations to the Department of Defense (DOD) in the summer of 2004.

Together, the BRAC process will shape the future of U.S. defense installations and the QDR will shape the future of U.S. military force structure, modernization and strategy. In so doing we will experience a dramatic “transformational” change in capabilities and weapons systems we operate in the military.

I believe these changes will make our nation better equipped to face the new world situation.

What does this mean to us in the 125th Fighter Wing? While nobody currently knows the exact result of these processes (because BRAC and QDR results and recommendations will not be

***“While nobody currently knows the exact result of these processes... I personally believe these programs will promote positive changes for the U.S. military, and for us at the 125th.”***

finalized and released until late 2005), I personally believe these programs will promote positive changes for the U.S. military, and for us at the 125th.

At the same time, I feel it is important for us to understand that the military will experience major changes that may dramatically affect many bases, units and individuals.

I believe the Air National Guard will stay about the same

size (about 107,000 people), but some units or bases will undoubtedly close, some units will change missions or locations, while some units will “blend” or “integrate” with other active duty or Guard units.

For units with flying missions, there will be far less total aircraft nationwide than we currently operate. Many units will change weapons system, and some flying units will consolidate with other flying units or even adopt non-flying missions. Because of the BRAC, the QDR, the new world situation, and the changes we will undoubtedly see in the military, I want everyone in the 125th to know we will always keep you informed of events that affect our unit and our people.

At the same time, I ask that each of you trust us to proactively communicate, and not spread rumors that will naturally emerge due to the magnitude of the changes possibly on the horizon for the military. Your leadership will not withhold information that

affects our unit and our people.

The 125th is without question one of the most respected

fighter units in the Air National Guard and the Air Force, and we have a number of strong factors in our favor.

We have simply superb people, a vital mission, strong leadership above us that cares about our unit and the military. I am very optimistic about the years ahead—the next few years will be a very interesting, exciting time to be in the 125th Fighter Wing.

# Employer turns the tables on 125th

*By Major Richard E. Bittner  
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

BUNNELL, Fla.—The employer of drill status guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Susanne M. Ottlein, 125MPF assistant NCOIC of Readiness, treated members of the 125th as guests of honor Thursday Dec. 11, 2003 during a tour of the Flagler County Division of Emergency Services operations. Flagler County employs Ottlein as a Secretary III in the emergency operations center here.

Doug Wright, Department of Emergency Services Director and Troy Harper, Emergency Management Division Chief hosted Lt. Col. David R. Thomas, Chief Master Sgt. Gary A. Carter and Senior Master Sgt. Daniel L. McKendree, Ottlein's 125th leadership, for the visit.

Both gentlemen noted the talent and irreplaceable skill of Ottlein and how her title does not aptly describe her duties. In addition to her secretarial duties, Ottlein also serves as the

night shift supervisor during emergency operations center stand-ups. The visit allowed full-time members of the FLANG to see how the "other half" lives and Wright and Harper were both very enthusiastic about the skills and work ethic their Reserve employees bring to the table.

Harper and Wright briefed different facets of the Department, including history, current capabilities and future growth and training initiatives. Tours of equipment (fire trucks and a helicopter) followed the briefs.

Thomas thanked Wright and Harper for their support of Ottlein, who was activated for Operation Noble Eagle for 18 months. He stressed that ANG participation in the Global War On Terrorism as part of the Total Force would be ongoing, and such activations were likely to re-occur in the future.

He referenced the "30 Years War" construct; the DoD

perception that the duration of the GWOT will be long and the ANG will be an integral participant in it.

Thomas said FLANG leadership understands and appreciates the employer as a vital part of the 'triad'; member, family and employer; that support the ANG mission.

He assured Wright and Harper of the 125th's desire to work closely in partnership with them and that the FLANG would provide as much notice of scheduled activation events as possible.

Thomas also discussed some of the FLANG unique capabilities that could enhance the Department's mission capabilities, specifically the C-26 in use for 'hot spotting' identification during wildfires. Wright said that the FLANG and Flagler Emergency Services Division share similar missions and struggles.

They are deeply involved on the front lines of homeland defense as 'first responders' and have thought and addressed how they will handle terrorist events in their county. They added that they share our issue of resource limitations as well. The tour provided the FLANG leaders with an appreciation of the capabilities and limiting factors of this employer.

Each came away with a full understanding of employer challenges to backfill deployed employees.

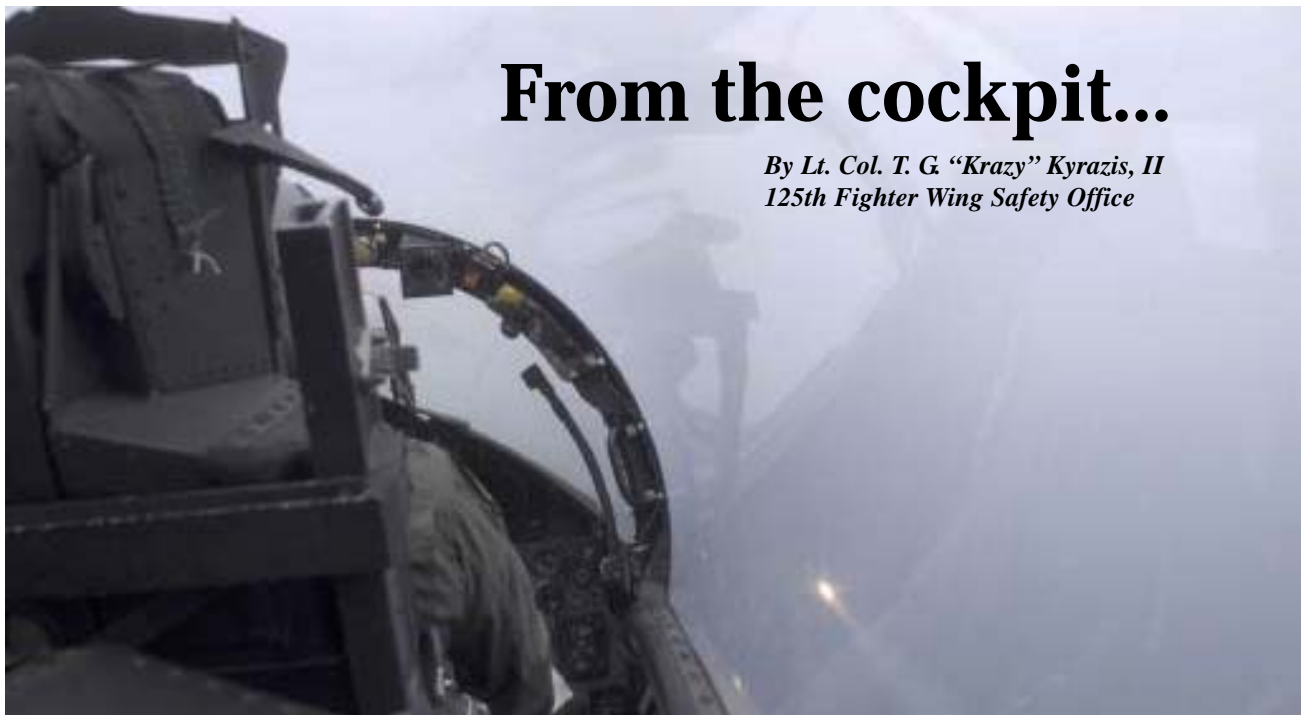
The visit established a partnership with Flagler County Division of Emergency Services management.

Flagler is committed to continue to support service in the ANG and therefore our mission.



*Photo by Major Richard E. Bittner*

Members of the 125th take a look at the helicopter owned by the Flagler County Division of Emergency Services in Bunnell, Fla. Dec. 11, 2003. Notice the unique "N" number assigned to the aircraft, N911US.



For those familiar with the 125th's possible tasking in the spring of 2003, you know we were geared up for a major deployment to a combat zone for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Of course we did not deploy, and air-to-air capabilities of U.S. fighters were not tasked even once in that conflict. Why we did or did not go is not the point of this discussion, but a question was raised about whether we had Fighter Data-Link (FDL) capability in our aircraft.

We have had this capability for several years and I thought you might be interested in what it does for us, why it is such an advantage, and what it looks like *in the cockpit...*

As the term implies, Fighter Data-Link is a form of secure communication that passes digital information into the cockpit. It allows the pilot to see a pictorial representation of an air-to-air intercept. The current FDL system has advanced to the point where the entire air war picture can be passed to a pilot. Any surveillance or weapons system equipped with this capability can participate in the data-link network. Their information will be seen by the other participants in the "net." The 159FS deployed to Gulfport, Miss. to participate in a major data-link exercise Spring 2002. There, they were able to see the entire air war picture, with contributions from Aegis cruisers, Patriot batteries, AWACS, and E-2 Hawkeye platforms. The information is so complete that the picture the pilot sees in the cockpit is usually identical to the one the Regional Air Defense Commander sees in his situation room.

In fact, in a data-link exercise in 1996, I was able to play the role of Sector Air Defense commander from the cockpit of the F-15. This meant I was able to target airborne adversaries with either Patriot or Aegis missiles, or commit fighters, depending on what I thought was most appropriate based on the battlefield picture I saw.

The overall picture looked something like Figure. 1. It may look like a chocolate mess, but imagine trying to describe the battle going on with words, when one glimpse gives a broad overview of what's happening. I'll break it down by layers to show what's being depicted.

Figure 2 shows the basic elements of the FDL display. Notice first that the blue symbols toward



Figure 1



the bottom third of the scope depict the location of your own aircraft (the double blue cross) and that of your wingman. The “2” in the circle indicates he’s number 2 and the “15” shows his altitude at 15000 feet. The dashed red-purple symbols at the top of the display are surveillance tracks being passed with their altitudes displayed from AWACS, E-2’s, or any type of ground radar that can interface with FDL. Even positions of ships or surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites can be passed. The positions of the surveillance tracks are updated as often as the host radar, somewhere around once every 15 seconds. However the F-15 position information is updated about twice a second, and is very accurate. The inter-connected yellow triangles are Latitude/Longitude point’s input through the inertial navigation system to indicate a route or other boundaries.

Figure 3. shows the targeting information that can be passed between the fighters by themselves. Any kind of solid symbology indicates it came from a fighter radar, not a surveillance radar. This indicates precise locations of potential targets. In this case the flight lead (you) are locked to a target at 30,000 feet, while your wingman (#2) has a target at 32,000 feet. Before FDL, these two fighters would have had to communicate the range, bearing, and altitude of their respective targets.

If the targets were close together, it used to be easy to be confused as to whether we as a flight of two had actually found both targets, or if we had locked the same guy. Now, with a glance, we can tell if we are sorted (locked to different targets).

If the line from your wingman starts flashing, that means he is shooting. He doesn’t have



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

to tell you over the radio. With a quick flip to a formation display, you can also read his current weapons inventory and amount of fuel left.

Finally, Figure 4 shows that the information is not just displayed for the pilot’s “situational awareness,” but also to help find adversaries on the radar. In this case, a surveillance track is tagged on the FDL display, and the location is echoed on the radar display. This position tag, plus the altitude readout next to it, makes it awfully hard for the pilot to mess up this intercept (although I still manage to goober it up even with all this help!)

To try to describe any of the above figures verbally would have been confusing and boring. But that was how it had to be done prior to installing Fighter Data Link in our jets. With this new technology in the cockpit, you can see what an advantage our Florida Air National Guard F-15’s have over any adversary worldwide, or knocking at our borders!

## Why did you join the Guard?

By Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson  
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain

I am writing this article on a beautiful December Tuesday following the UTA weekend.

An early season snow storm blanketed the northern plains states and the northeast two days ago leaving as much as two feet of snow in its wake.

This morning I saw a picture of two Buffalo Bills fans sitting all alone in what looked more like a snow drift than football stands. Why do we live in Florida? Dah ...!

Obviously, some questions are more easily answered than others.

An example of one that may be a bit tougher than others is, "Why are we part of the Air National Guard?"

A few ready responses might be:

***I have to be in the Guard in order to maintain my technician job!***

***I need the educational benefits in order to attend college!***

***My buddy dared me to join and I showed him!***

While these statements may serve as an additional input to our decision, none of them adequately answer the question. Most of us could match our Guard paychecks in other ways if we really wanted to do so.

It's not for the money!

Most of us could find ways to obtain scholarships if we really tried.

It's not the financial aid!

Note:

If you joined the Guard on a dare, we need to talk before you really get yourself in trouble!

The truth is that while other factors may contribute toward your decision to participate in the Guard, you are here,

***"You want to be counted among those who compose that long line of brave men and women who have stood on the wall and have answered the call..."***

ultimately, because you are a patriot.

You love your country and you are willing to defend it. You appreciate those who fought our wars in times past and insured your opportunity to live free today. You want to be counted among those who compose that long line of brave men and women who have stood on the wall and have answered the call.

That is why you volunteer to participate in patriotic activities like those on Veterans' Day,



Independence Day and Memorial Day.

That is why you are the one asked to carry our nation's flag in your church's special programs.

That is why you get a little upset when you see people at football games failing to remove their hats during the playing of our national anthem.

Make no mistake about it ... other reasons notwithstanding ... you are a patriot!

Why do we live in Florida? The "no brainer" revelation can be discerned while watching the Weather Channel November through March.

Why are you part of the Florida Air National Guard? Stand in front of the mirror for an extra moment the next time you put on your Service Dress. The patriot looking back at you knows the answer.

**God Bless You!**



# Good OPSEC pays off during the War of 1812

By 1st Lt. Ashley E. Myers

HHC 146th Signal Battalion, FLARNG

It was warm that August night 190 years ago, even in the foggy morning hours before daybreak, when word came to the citizens of St. Michaels that the enemy was approaching.

The War of 1812 was about to erupt on the tiny hamlet nestled in one of the many coves of the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The British planned a two-pronged attack. Three hundred Royal Marines landed ashore and prepared to assault the town while the Royal Navy's *HMS Conflict* positioned itself off the harbor and prepared to bombard the town from the sea.

However, British preparations gave the townspeople plenty of warning and they devised an ingenious deception plan to counter the British attack: they blackened out the lights and candles in their homes and placed lanterns high in the

trees around the town which caused the naval gunners to overshoot with their barrage.

The town was saved and the British troops withdrew. The blackout is believed to be the first of its kind in history and to this day St. Michaels is proud to claim the title of "the town that fooled the British."

This footnote in American history reminds us that when America is under attack, she can depend on her citizens to rally to her defense with innovative methods.

Though the townspeople of St. Michaels did not know the term *Operational Security*, they applied its principles.

Then, as now, Operations Security can help save lives and defeat the enemy.

Remember, a good OPSEC countermeasure is anything that works.

## Operation Christmas Stocking still delivers smiles to neglected kids after 28 years



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

125th members help gather Christmas gifts that will be delivered to local area children.

By Master Sgt. Stephen J. Hendrix

125th Fighter Wing Chaplains Office

For 28 years the spirit of giving has flourished in the Florida Air National Guard in Northeast Florida. Operation Christmas Stocking, held every year in December, collects and distributes a total of 1,884 gifts to abandoned, neglected and abused children in the local area for Christmas.

Operation Christmas Stocking has grown from humble beginnings since the program's inception in 1976 to become the largest single organizational contributor of Christmas gifts to children in the care of the Florida Department of Children and Families. The FANG Chaplain Service, under the leadership of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson, oversees the administration and logistics of this annual undertaking.

Many children across the Greater Jacksonville area awoke Christmas morning to gifts they otherwise wouldn't have received had it not been for the FANG. May God richly bless each of you for your generosity!

# Operations Security

By Major Steven R. Hilsdon  
125th Fighter Wing OPSEC Officer

**Congratulations.** This article will complete the annual OPSEC training. Past articles have covered the OPSEC process, to include how OPSEC can be applied to various areas. The final block tests your knowledge in an OPSEC scenario using all five steps of the OPSEC process in order to develop effective countermeasures against the threat.

**Introduction.** The first part of the scenario provides the background information by identifying the circumstances involved, the deal being made, and *your* task as the OPSEC officer. The second part asks you to take the scenario through the OPSEC process – to do some analysis and eventually propose a solution using good OPSEC practices.

**Background Information**  
Timothy Houlihan was taken into custody by the FBI last week. Though his capture was intended to remain secret, the story was leaked to the Boston Globe. Houlihan, a gunrunner for the Irish Republican Army (IRA), agreed to testify against his IRA counterparts in exchange for the enrollment of his wife and daughter in the Federal Witness Protection Program.

Houlihan is currently being held in a U.S. Marshals' safe house outside of Boston. However, because the U.S. Attorney wants to debrief Houlihan under the supervision of the Department of Justice, he must be moved from Boston to a Washington D.C. area safehouse. Houlihan

has agreed to be moved, but will only cooperate after his family joins him in Washington. Houlihan will not reveal the aliases of his family until he arrives safely at the safehouse. Houlihan's closest friends in the IRA know the names and location of his family in Canada.

It is believed that they will not contact or harm his family unless it becomes evident that Houlihan is willing to expose their activities. The safehouse is in a gated community in a Boston suburb. All cars entering the community must have a key for the gate or check with a guard who notifies residents when visitors arrive. There is one entry/exit for vehicles, but there are controlled pedestrian gates on either side of the complex.

The FBI suspects the IRA has knowledge of Houlihan's whereabouts. You should expect that an effort may be made to harm Houlihan or his family if the IRA becomes suspicious about his willingness to testify.

Houlihan's testimony could expose numerous corrupt government officials throughout New England, Canada, and Great Britain. In addition, it should provide detailed operational, financial, and logistical knowledge about the IRA's operations in New England and eastern Canada.

It is believed the family is under constant surveillance by IRA agents.

The IRA is also known to have informants working in the Boston Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police



Department. Your Mission as the senior US Marshal responsible for Houlihan's safety is to get him to an airport in western Maryland from which he will be taken to the debriefing center. The current plan is to move Houlihan by car to a local airport where two US Marshals will accompany him for the trip. For the purposes of this scenario, your task is only to get Houlihan to Maryland.

## Applying the OPSEC Process

You now know the background information on Mr. Houlihan and you have the details about your mission as the officer in charge of the operation. According to the guidelines of good OPSEC principles and based on the scenario given, what should your first step be?

- a. analyze the threats to Houlihan's safety
- b. analyze the weaknesses in your transport operation
- c. determine the level of risk to Houlihan in your operation
- d. identify the information critical in your transport operation

According to the OPSEC process model, the first step is to determine what information is critical to your operation (d).

No matter what the operation involves, identifying your critical information allows you to determine what is and is not important and helps you give the most immediate items top priority.

***This is where we get our Critical Indicator List that should be displayed around the base.***

Based on the scenario and sound OPSEC principles, which of these items would you consider to be critical to your operation (hint, there are five)?

1. Increased traffic to the safehouse
2. Time Houlihan is to be moved
3. Houlihan has made a deal
4. Uniformed personnel present
5. Government vehicles present
6. Houlihan's current location
7. People involved in the move
8. Single point of entry/exit
9. Houlihan's destination
10. IRA informants present

If the adversary knows the exact time of the move, then they will know Houlihan is in any vehicle that is leaving the safehouse at that time. The adversary can now concentrate on any activity occurring at the proper time.

This is definitely a critical item. Since you probably don't know the adversary is aware of the exact time of the move, you will be totally unprepared for any action they may take.

The adversary's chances of thwarting your operation are now excellent. If you chose 2, 3, 6, 7, & 9 you were correct.

Based on the exercise so far, we can make two basic observations about critical items:

***If an item is public knowledge, it isn't a critical item.***

***Critical items normally deal with specifics rather than generalities.***

The goal of OPSEC is to deny the adversary information he doesn't already know. Therefore, public knowledge items cannot be critical items. This is also why critical information isn't meant for public knowledge, ***even if it is unclassified.***

Now that you've identified the information critical to your operation, let's look at the next step - analyzing the threat. Since Houlihan is an IRA gunrunner, it's obvious the threat comes from the IRA. According to good OPSEC principles, what do we need to know about the IRA to analyze them as a threat?

- a. their intent
- b. their motivation
- c. their capabilities
- d. All of these choices

According to the OPSEC model, the threat is analyzed in terms of his motivation, intent, and capability, so all the choices are correct.

The IRA's intention then is to prevent Houlihan from revealing any information. You know the IRA has wiretaps, a HUMINT network, surveillance, small arms, and explosives among their arsenal of capabilities. Because of all this, the threat against Houlihan is considered high.

Knowing the IRA's intent, how many of the following strategies do you think the IRA would consider using to achieve their goal?

1. Kill Houlihan
2. Discredit Houlihan
3. Bribe the escort
4. Bribe Houlihan
5. Kidnap family members

While all five strategies are possible, only 1, 3, & 5 are the ones that guarantee the IRA's goal - to keep Houlihan from talking.

Now it's time to look at vulnerabilities and indicators. A weakness in your operation that an adversary could use to exploit your critical information is called a vulnerability.

- a. True
- b. False

Based on the OPSEC model, a vulnerability is defined as a weakness in your operation that an adversary may use to exploit your critical information. Vulnerabilities include existing situations or conditions within your operation that the adversary views as weaknesses.

Indicators are observable or detectable activities which can tip-off an adversary and point him in a direction to find information.

Since your operation is a contingency, the indicators that would tip off your adversary would most likely show him deviations from your daily operations.



# A season of remembrance

*Major Richard E. Bittner*

*125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

During November and December each year, our nation sets aside two very special days for remembrance and tribute. The 125th and other FLNG organizations helped area residents pay tribute to Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2003, and Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 2003.

Beginning top center and working clockwise, three F-15's from the 125th take the opportunity to capture a three-ship photo near Alltel stadium just moments after completing a flyby for the Dec. 7, 2003 Jaguars NFL football game. The flyby was part of a pre-game show dedicated to the memory of those lost and the living survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. Pictured far right, the 125th Chaplain, Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson, makes a point during his talk as the guest speaker during the town of Hilliard's Veterans Day remembrance ceremony Saturday Nov. 8, 2003. And, shown bottom center and bottom right, members of the 125th Base Honor Guard opened the Jacksonville City Council meeting Nov. 12 with a posting of the Colors ceremony and the POW/MIA ceremony. Pictured bottom right, Master Sgt. Michael A. Hall, 125th Maintenance Squadron 1st Sgt., prepares to lead members of the Honor Guard in the very emotional POW/MIA remembrance ceremony. The members pay homage to five service hats representing the four branches of the U.S. military and the Coast Guard. Many of the Council members shed tears during the ceremony and Lad Daniels, council president, called a recess following the ceremony so members could regain their composure. Bottom left, members of the FLNG, Army and Air who served in deployed operations in southwest Asia in 2003, are honored during halftime festivities at the Nov. 9, 2003 Jaguars NFL game at Alltel stadium.



*Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Jaguars*







Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers



Courtesy of Newsleader



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

"Remembrance" *continued...*

Members of the 125th Base Honor Guard participated in a ceremonial flag folding at the St. Augustine Lighthouse Nov. 11, 2003.

As the flag is slowly folded, the meaning of each fold is recited to the hearers. Each of the 13 folds in the U.S. flag hold meaning not known to most Americans.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost. When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."



*Photos courtesy of St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum*





# Callahan students visit the 125th

*By Major Richard E. Bittner  
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Griffin's "Gators," Mrs. Betty Griffin's Callahan Elementary School second grade class, enjoyed a fun filled and eye opening morning here Thursday Nov. 21, 2003.

The group of more than 20 children was treated to a tour of the life support area, a quick look at an F-15 and a briefing on the equipment firemen use.

They particularly enjoyed a tour of the FANG C-130. Lieutenant. Col. John "Magnum" Hayden enthralled the children with tales of flight in the C-130 Hercules. The children were very inquisitive and Hayden was extremely patient as the children explored every nook and cranny of the airplane.

Technical Sgt. Scott A. Cicero, 125 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician and former student of Mrs. Griffin, sponsored the tour.



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker*

Tech. Sgt. Scott A. Cicero leads a student to the hangar. The student, along with the other "Gators," got a close-up look at the F-15.



Lt. Col. John "Magnum" Hayden captivates his audience of Callahan students, including teaching intern Lisa Marshall, with tales of flight in the C-130 Hercules.



## Chief's Words

*Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski  
125th Fighter Wing Command Chief*

Our operations tempo and taskings in 2003 were high and, as always, the 125th stood up to the challenges and met them all. As we move into 2004, our plate is full. Our AEF and ECS deployments are scheduled, major aircraft modifications are ongoing, and our normal training and alert commitments continue. This short list names a few of our many challenges. As busy as we are, we need to continue to take every opportunity to work on quality of life issues.

Our Junior Enlisted Council (JEC) is working hard on this and has several projects in the works. The new banners that now line Fang Drive is one of their projects. They plan to start a UTA intramural sports program and are working on other activities that mirror opportunities you might find at an active duty base community center.

The JEC meets every Saturday on UTAs at 3 p.m. in the headquarters conference room. If interested in getting involved with this organization, come to one of the meetings. They are looking for more participation from all members E-6 and below.

Along with the JEC, individual units or sections should look for times when they can take a break from the hectic pace and plan

some R&R. We work hard here at the Wing, we take our responsibilities to be ready to defend our country very seriously, but we also need to take care of ourselves and reward ourselves for a job well done.

Take a look at the Wing calendar and find a time that your unit/section can shutdown early. Clear it through your unit and group commander and plan something.

You don't have to wait for someone in leadership to come up with an idea. It is hard for the whole Wing to plan an activity since there are so many conflicting requirements.

You all work hard and you deserve to take a break. Make it a point to plan a time to kick back and relax, whether it's a cookout or softball game, do something this year. I know our commanders will support appropriate activities. They know more than anyone how hard you have been working these last several years and they will support you in finding a time to take a break and have some fun. You all deserve it!

## Security Issues

*Technical Sgt. Mark J. Perry  
125th Antiterrorism Coordinator*

The Department of Defense has concluded a 19-month project to provide on-line Antiterrorism training that meets the requirements of DODI 2000.16

Standard 22. Since its inception, more than 500,000 DOD personnel have used this training resource and approximately 2,000 additional people complete this training each day.

The program allows for adaptive instructional design that enables the user to adapt to the content. Situation review screens address each person's specific selections and provide teaching points from three levels of difficulty. Personnel using this on-line training receive a certificate of completion for the Level I AT training requirement and can email their results to their unit-training manager.

This innovative on-line course earned the government category of "e Learning Success Awards" sponsored by the e Learning Expo trade show April 2002.

This training program enables users to reference AT information from the DOD, State Department, CIA, FBI and White House Office of Homeland Security.

Those who have completed the training feel that they have increased their "confidence in their ability to stay safe" to a "significant" degree. To access the training, go to:

**<http://at-awareness.org>.**

The access code is AWARE.

Any questions regarding AT Level I training or antiterrorism force protection items can be directed to the 125th Antiterrorism office (904) 741-7863.

# Military Parents: *The homefront's most overlooked and unsung heroes*

By Ms. Beth Eifert  
FLANG Family Readiness Coordinator

Military parents--They suffer silently as they watch their child train for war knowing the horrible risks, yet bearing their pain with incredible pride and dignity for the good of our nation.

They are rarely recognized, understandably overshadowed by the sacrifice of military spouses and children. Yet now there is an opportunity to formally acknowledge the sacrifice of our parents - and it only takes a moment.

Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper have launched a service-wide campaign to thank the parents of America's airmen

for supporting their children's service.

The "Your Guardians of Freedom" office developed a secure, web-based system for airmen to provide the names and addresses of up to two parents (or parental figures). Shortly after an airman registers and submits the necessary information, his or her parents receive personalized tri-fold cards from Secretary Roche and General Jumper containing high-quality lapel pins displaying the letter "P" cradled in the Air Force symbol.

All airmen - active, Guard, and Reserve - are strongly encouraged to visit the following website, [www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com](http://www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com) and have pins sent to up to two

recipients. The pins are a contemporary adaptation of the World War II Employer Flags that were used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort, and they are presented on display cards that explain their lineage. The letters address recipients and airmen by name.

They are intended to communicate to parents the importance of their children's service to the ongoing war on terrorism, to express sincere gratitude for parents' continued support, and to convey a sense of partnership between the Air Force and the parents of America's airmen.

Please take a moment to visit the site and acknowledge your parents for their support and sacrifice.

## CCAF degrees recognize academic efforts of Air Force personnel

By Master Sgt. Luther W. Hagy, III  
125th Base Education and Training Office

The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) was activated in 1972 to incorporate technical training by Air Force schools for academic recognition.

The CCAF provides educational programs to enlisted personnel and is designed to help students meet future technological and leadership challenges. The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Decatur, Ga., accredits CCAF. CCAF offers 66 degree programs in five general areas: Logistics and Resources, Public and Support Services, Allied Health, Electronics and Telecommunications, and Aircraft and Missile Maintenance.

Each degree program consists of 64 semester hours (SH) and combines Air Force education/training with a core of general education

requirements obtained from civilian education sources. A breakdown of course requirements are:

*Physical Ed.:* 4 SH (satisfied by completion of basic training)

*Technical Ed.:* 24 SH (satisfied by completion of entry-level and advanced technical courses and skill level upgrade)

*General Ed.:* 15 SH (oral/written communication, Math, Social Science, Humanities)

Program Electives: 15 SH (satisfied by credit from either general or technical education courses)

*Leadership, Management, Military Studies:* 6 SH (PME courses, management, business, human resource courses)

Over 207,000 enlisted AF members have earned degrees through CCAF. Currently, the CCAF serves over 378,000 students worldwide.

For additional information, call the 125th Base Education and Training office 904-741-7821



# Small business loans bring temporary relief to Guardsmen, Reservists

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 2003 — Overseas deployments are always tough on families.

Naturally, the initial focus falls upon the emotional cost of separation.

But, for Guardsmen and reservists who own small businesses, the cost involved in a deployment takes on a whole new meaning.

For the past two years, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program has provided loans to eligible small businesses to cover operating costs that can't be met after a key employee is called to active duty in the reserves or National Guard. Often the "key employee" is the business owner, whose family left behind depends on the income generated from the company.

When Rick Parsons, an officer with the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion from Churchville, N.Y., deployed last year to Afghanistan, his veterinary practice took a major hit.

Parsons and his wife, Marla, ran the hospital, with Parsons serving as its only veterinarian responsible for performing all surgeries, exams and emergency treatments at the hospital.

"During the year prior to Rick's deployment, we tried to hire a full-time vet," said Marla.

When Parson received his deployment orders, the search became even tougher. "People were hesitant to work as the sole vet in a small practice," she said. Finding a full-time vet was next to impossible. As a result, the Parsons hired part-time

veterinarians, but the business ultimately suffered. When Parsons realized that he could be on active duty for more than a year, he applied for assistance through the Small Business Administration's loan program.

"Many small businesses have had to cope with the loss of know-how, and have been hurt financially by the absence of a key employee during the recent call-ups," said Small Business Administration administrator Hector V. Barreto.

"This loan program has helped many businesses survive, and the SBA will continue to support these dedicated men and women who have made such a great sacrifice in the course of serving their country."

Small businesses like the Churchville Veterinary Hospital may apply for Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million if they have been financially affected by the loss of an essential employee.

These working capital loans may be used to pay operating expenses that otherwise could have been covered if the reservist or Guardsman hadn't been called to active duty.

The loans cannot be used to refinance debt or expand the business, and the Small Business Administration determines the

amount of economic injury. The filing period for the loans ends 90 days after the date the business owner or key employee is discharged from active duty.

Now that Parsons has returned home from active duty, his wife said their business is still in a crunch because, as with any loan, the money has to be paid back.

To pay back the loan, the Parsons hired a full-time veterinarian to run their practice while Parsons took a job at a local university.

But Marla Parsons said the loan program provided some vital financial assistance when she and her husband needed it.

"We probably would have lost the practice if (the SBA) hadn't lent us the money," she said.

■ Federal law requires SBA to determine whether credit in an amount needed to accomplish full recovery is available from non-government sources without creating an undue financial hardship to the applicant.

■ The law calls this credit available elsewhere. Generally, SBA determines that over 90% of disaster loan applicants do not have sufficient financial resources to recover without the assistance of the Federal government.

■ Because the Military Reservist economic injury loans are taxpayer subsidized, Congress intended that applicants with the financial capacity to fund their own recovery should do so and therefore are not eligible for MREIDL assistance.

# 125th technicians take time out to enjoy the holiday season



*Photos by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

**Top left:** Master Sgt. Phyllis Mike plants a special greeting on Senior Master Sgt. (retired) Homer Blackman as his son, Lt. Col. Momer B. Blackman, III, a 125th C-26 pilot, looks on.

**Center:** Party goers share some conversation.

**Bottom left:** The 125th Chiefs serve the food during the party.

**Bottom Right:** 125th Commander, Col. James A. Firth, announces the door prize winners.

The annual Technician Christmas luncheon was held Friday Dec. 12, 2003, here at the Wing in the dining facility.

It was a day of celebration, fun and food as current 125th members and old friends gathered to remember the holidays together.

Each year the 125th sets aside one Friday in December to invite the retiree's out for lunch with the current group of full-time technicians. A cooking and door prize committee, headed up this year by Master Sgt. Mathew S. Rohn, 125th Civil Engineering Squadron, ensured no one left the base hungry and several folks departed with door prizes in hand.



# News from HQ

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus  
FLANG Chief of Staff

I appreciate the opportunity to share a few words in this edition of The Eagle's Eye.

It is a great venue to communicate to you what is going on in your sister units around the state.

It is an absolute supersonic ride to serve as the Chief of Staff of the FLANG and each day offers unique challenges as we continue to transform, keeping our units relevant in today's environment.

Here's a quick run around the state.

## **114th Range Flight and 114th Combat Communications Squadron:**

January 2004, BG Titshaw and I flew to Peterson AFB, Co., HQ/AFSPC to hand deliver a letter from the 45SW/CC (Patrick AFB) with his concurrence to establish a 100 person Range Support Squadron (RANSS) on Cape Canaveral.

We met with manpower, plans, and ultimately Gen. Lance W. Lord, AFSPC/CC, to propose utilizing the manpower of the 114CCS and placing them into compatible positions within the new space squadron.

To do this, we had to show how our new Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) equipment would need the support of a standing squadron and assure the space wing the existing 15-person 114RF would continue to adequately maintain its performance standards on the Eastern Range.

The trip was a huge success and NGB is meeting with us to begin the transfer of personnel and funding for a FLANG support squadron (114RANSS) on the Cape.

## **290th JCSS**

The 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron is creating a separate flight called the Joint Airborne Command and Control/Command Post.

The eight-person crew will operate inside a highly technical airborne communications module, allowing a senior commander airborne command and control capability.

Special operations units in areas of CENTCOM and SOUTHCOM are requesting this

***"It is an absolute supersonic ride to serve as the Chief of Staff of the FLANG and each day offers unique challenges as we continue to transform, keeping our units relevant in today's environment."***

C-130 and C-17 transportable unit for the war effort fighting terrorism.

We are very proud of what our crews have accomplished and the accolades they are receiving.

## **202nd Red Horse:**

The HORSE has a new commander, Lt. Col. Wallace "Jack" Paschal.

We bid farewell to Col Jere Cook who retired and moved on to business opportunities and obviously a few magic shows.

Paschal has been a part of the 202nd for many years and brings a wealth of experience,



enthusiasm, and credibility to his new command.

## **Southeast Air Defense Sector:**

SEADS will soon become the 1st Air Operations Group.

The sector is modernizing while transitioning into an Air Operations Center. This 1st AF and CONR initiative will take 1st AF from a 20th century organization, designed to defend against a cold war construct, to a 21st century organization that

protects Americans, Canadians and others in the Western Hemisphere.

The super AOG will design strategy and concepts of operation to prevent acts of terrorism rather than just respond to them offering NORTHCOM/CC capabilities present in deployed combat theater AOC's.

## **Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC):**

Spring 2004 we will have a ribbon cutting for the new \$6.9

*Continued next page...*



million weather facility that will also provide a new home for the 159 Weather Flight.

We are so proud of this initiative that will serve as a true "lighthouse" for the weather community, serving active, guard, and reserve forces from every branch.

### **125th Fighter Wing**

A special thanks to you, the 125th for the outstanding work you do day in and day out showing why you are indeed the premier fighter wing in the nation.

You cannot find as much talent packed into 332 acres anywhere in the world.

When the rest of the world, including BRAC committees, look at the 125th they clearly see you as the tip of the spear protecting the air sovereignty of the east coast as a NORAD apportioned force.

The 125th is a vital Air Expeditionary Force asset and a true national treasure, which, along with the alert at Homestead, make it a safer world for us all.

Thank you for your total commitment to excellence.

This will be a positive year of transformation and growth for the Florida Air National Guard.

Working together, we will achieve great success. Our commitment to you is to **communicate** and be extremely visible by visiting all 10 units regularly to keep you knowledgeable of new directions, beginnings, and challenges for the best air national Guard state in the country.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Trumble*

### **I SWEAR!**

Newly inducted chiefs take their oath during an induction ceremony at the FLANG commanders and chiefs conference held at the Casa Monica Hotel, St. Augustine Fla., Nov. 16-18, 2003. Pictured from left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Gerald W. Townsend, 125 Maintenance Group; Chief Master Sgt. Victor A. Santiago, Jr., 125th Communications Flight; Chief Master Sgt. Paul Castillo, Weather Readiness Training Center; Chief Master Sgt. Gary A. Carter 125th Mission Support Flight and Chief Master Sgt. John H Mixson, 125th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

# In the Spotlight

## Tech. Sgt. Greg MacDonald



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas*

MacDonald, an operations resource management technician for the 159th Fighter Squadron, joined the Florida Air National Guard in 1991 after transferring from the New Jersey Air National Guard.

He worked as an active duty Air Force air traffic controller from 1984-1988 and has a combined total of more than 20 years of military experience.

MacDonald said he left active duty in 1988 to be near his father, who at the time suffered a heart attack.

"I had to leave to help him with his real estate business, so I went back to New Jersey and joined the Guard there," he said.

It wasn't until Chief Master Sgt. Linda Sadesky met him in 1991 at a conference that he decided to make the move to Florida.

"She basically recruited me and has been sort of a role model for me, she's great" said MacDonald, who ultimately, would like to make Command Chief one day before retiring.

With all of his experiences in the military, MacDonald said that the most memorable has been with the FANG—notably, the day he received an incentive ride in the F-16.

## Tech. Sgt. Raquel Barriere

Barriere is an information management specialist and the unit training manager for the 125th Fighter Wing.

She joined the FANG in 2000 after leaving active duty where she served four years as a guidance and control technician.

Currently, she is on active duty for the Wing.

On the civilian side, Barriere has accomplished a multitude of tasks such as small business owner, full-time student, commander of the American Legion in Gainesville and Guardsman—all at the same time.

A recent political science graduate from the University of Florida, she wants to become a commissioned officer in the FANG and continue to serve for what she calls "her extended family."

"The 125th is like an extended family in a professional environment," said Barriere.

Barriere also said that her most memorable moment with the FANG so far was having the opportunity to work with the German Air Force during Exercise Agile Archer in 2002.



# Promotions

## To Lt Colonel

Pamela Y. Blunt

## To Master Sgt.

Kenneth A. Mitchell

Dwayne E. Morris

## To Technical Sgt.

Raquel Barriere

Mark A. Costly

Cassandra Freer

Corey L. General

Christine M. Sundquist

Kevin M. Wall

Michelle C. Williams

## To Staff Sgt.

Douglas L. Bryant

Darion G. Butler

Julius C. Dawson

Joseph D. V. Do

Serita L. Morgan

Terry A. Schermerhorn

John E. Smith

Robert R. Tyson

Robert A. Zeller

## To Senior Airman

Kenneth M. Creager

Kurt D. Day II

David R. Deloach III

Leamon E. Goines, Jr.

Bryan W. Hunt

David M. Lakoskey

Richard A. Quiles

Renzo K. Sheppard

Richard A. Shronce

Richard Vandersteen, III

Aaron D. Young

## To Airman First Class

Jeffrey W. Leigh, II

Logan R. Musil

# Welcomes

Major Paul R. Hill

TSgt Jill A. Wood

SSgt Allen R. Barlow

SSgt Warren T. Kirby III

SSgt Jessica A. Kittelson

SSgt Michael D. MacDonald

SSgt James F. McGarry

SSgt Paula M. Milton

SSgt Kenneth T. Pennyman

SSgt Julie L. Sandberg

SSgt Matthew J. Zuk

SrA Carmina N. Aguirre

SrA Kimberly A. Farley

SrA Lashonda M. Word

A1C Susan N. Anlage

A1C Christopher C. Clover

A1C Shaun K. Horne

A1C Kristen M. Oliver

A1C Michael C. Tracy

A1C Sheena A. Wingo

# Farewells

Lt Col Thomas W. Beall, Jr.

Lt Col Laurence F. Schauff

Lt Col Del L. Sumner

Major Michael J. Guarino

CMSgt Jerry E. Fulop

CMSgt Terry M. Hall

CMSgt James E. Sumner

SMSgt Nolan A. Carroll

SMSgt Phillip E. McLaughlin

MSgt Larry L. Griswald

MSgt Cameron E. Matthews

TSgt Neal B. Mihalik

# CCAF Graduates

## April 2003 Graduates

Angella M. Beckom

Yancy B. Bowen

Shandria S. Brown

Reese D. Edwards

LaTonya F. Harris

James M. Healy

Christopher D. Henderson

Jeffrey R. Hetz

Sandra J. King

Carmaleta M. Lane

William L. Lunsford

David Smashum III

Terrilee V. Terrill

Joel M. Thompson

Lee O. Tucker

Timothy L. Whited

Mark T. Wolfenden

## October 2003 Graduates

Rodney L. Anderson

Danny A. Bennett

Frank E. Buntin, Jr.

Jonathon J. Covington

Donald A. Ellis

Anafe S. Johnson

Nathaniel A. Legree, Jr.

Sheila D. Mcglothlin

Terri L. Rossman

Lloyd C. Scharfenstine

Kenneth R. Sexton

# Florida Air National Guard Retiree Association

I hope each of you had a great Christmas and a good start to 2004. If you missed our October meeting you missed a very nice outing. The 125th Base Honor Guard presented an outstanding program that included a POW/MIA remembrance and a ceremonial Flag folding. I want to thank each of you who participated again.

We also enjoyed a short briefing on the Star Base Program and what it is doing for young people who are in the program. I'm sure everyone was impressed with the results Dr. Sydney Watson and her team are achieving - our thanks for enlightening us on the program.

Our next meeting is planned for Thursday, April 22. This will be a trial meeting to get some of our younger folks out. It was pointed out many of our younger members have children that have activities Friday nights which precludes the evening out for the parents. We are going to see if it helps to have our meetings on Thursday. We will again have a joint meeting with the Falcon Chapter of the AFA. We are hoping to get a program from the 202nd Red Horse to hear of their adventures rebuilding Baghdad International Airport so put it on your calendar.

The price is increasing to \$20.00 per person. This will probably be standard in the future for the Reef and Beef menu.

For those of you who are AFA members, Frank Kozdras is the new Falcon Chapter president. Frank replaces Homer Humphries who did an outstanding job the past three years. Homer - thanks for all your good work. I know you will continue to help wherever needed.

Call a friend and put our next meeting on your calendar. I hope we can have an even better turnout.

Ernie Webster, President





17 December 1903



17 December 2003

# 100 Years of Manned Flight

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125th Fighter Wing (ACC)  
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